Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) In a network including a router and an optical cross-connect system (OXC), a method for responding to a failure, the method comprising:

detecting the failure [[by]] in the router;

sending a signal from the router to the OXC, where wherein the signal indicates the failure; and

causes causing a working port of the OXC to connect to a protection port of the router in response to detection of the signal to a working port; and

transmitting data from the router to the OXC [[over]] via the protection port.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, where wherein the sending further comprises:

the step of sending an in-band signal to the OXC.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, where wherein the sending an in-band signal to the OXC further comprises:

[[the]] sending a Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) signal to the OXC.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, <u>where</u> ~~wherein~~ the sending further comprises<u>:</u>

sending an out-of-band signal to the OXC.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, <u>where</u> ~~wherein~~ the sending an out-of-band signal comprises<u>:</u>

~~the step of~~ addressing the out-of-band signal to an Internet Protocol address associated with the OXC.

6. (currently amended) A method for responding to a failure in a network including a router and an optical cross-connect system (OXC), the method comprising:

receiving a signal at the OXC from the router, the signal indicating [[the]] <u>a</u> failure <u>of a working port in the router</u>; and

connecting a protection port of the router to a working port of the OXC.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, <u>where</u> ~~wherein~~ the receiving further comprises<u>:</u>

receiving an in-band signal at the OXC.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, <u>where</u> ~~wherein~~ the ~~step of~~ receiving an in-band signal at the OXC comprises<u>:</u>

~~the step of~~ receiving a Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) signal at the OXC.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, <u>where</u> ~~wherein~~ the receiving further comprises<u>:</u>

receiving an out-of-band signal at the OXC.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, <u>where</u> ~~wherein~~ the receiving an out-of-band signal further comprises<u>:</u>

addressing the out-of-band signal to an Internet Protocol address associated with the OXC.

11. (currently amended) An optical cross-connect system comprising:

a spare port for transmitting low priority data from a router; and

a working port for transmitting high priority data from a primary router, <u>where</u> the working port ~~connectable~~ <u>is connected</u> to the router ~~responsive~~ <u>in response</u> to a failure of the primary router.

12. (currently amended) The optical cross-connection system of claim 11, <u>where</u> ~~wherein~~ the working port is ~~connectable~~ <u>connected</u> to the router ~~responsive~~ <u>in response</u> to receiving an in-band signal from the router.

13. (currently amended) The optical cross connection system of claim 12, <u>where</u> ~~wherein~~ the working port is ~~connectable~~ <u>connected</u> to the router ~~responsive~~ <u>in response</u> to receiving a Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) signal from the router.

14. (currently amended) The optical cross-connection system of claim 11, <u>where</u> ~~wherein~~ the working port is ~~connectable~~ <u>connected</u> to the router ~~responsive~~ <u>in response</u> to receiving an out-of-band signal from the router.

15. (currently amended) A communications network for transmitting data, the communication network comprising:

a router for receiving the data from a terminal, the router comprising:

a working port for receiving the data from the terminal; and

a protection port for receiving the data from the terminal, ~~responsive~~ <u>in response</u> to a failure of the working port; and

an optical cross-connect system (OXC) for receiving the data from the router, the optical cross-connect system comprising a working port, <u>where</u> the working port <u>of the OXC is connected</u> ~~connectable~~ to the protection port <u>of the router</u> , ~~responsive to~~ <u>in response to a signal received from the router indicating</u> the failure of the working port of the router.

16. (currently amended) The communications network of claim 15, <u>where</u> ~~wherein~~ the router transmits a signal indicating the failure to the OXC, the signal causing the OXC to connect the protection port to the working port of the OXC.

17. (currently amended) The communications network of claim 16, <u>where</u> ~~wherein~~ the signal is an in-band signal.

18. (currently amended) The communications network of claim 17, <u>where</u> ~~wherein~~ the in-band signal is a Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) signal.

19. (currently amended) The communications network of claim 16, <u>where</u> ~~wherein~~ the signal is an out-of-band signal.

20. (currently amended) The communications network of claim 19, <u>where</u> ~~wherein~~ the out-of-band signal is addressed to an Internet Protocol address associated with the OXC.